DEMOCRATIC
GERMAN REPORT

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THANK YOU, HERR STRAUSS

By the Editor

For the first time, and probably for the last time, we should like to offer a sincere vote of thanks to Herr Franz-Josef Strauss, West German Defence Minister.

Herr Strauss is an evil man; as Defence Minister since 1956 he played a leading part in building up the West German Bundeswehr, and making it the threat to world peace which it is today.

He thought he could get away with anything; but in October this year he over-reached himself, and it is for this we should like to thank him. By inspiring the Gestapo-like action against the West German news magazine "Spiegel", he showed the whole world the real neo-nazi face of the powers that be in West Germany. For the first time it was brought home to millions of people in West Germany who had been saying "It Can't Happen Here Again", that it certainly could; and people throughout the world who had been taken in by West German propaganda were shown forcibly that the old militarists who launched two world wars were still in the saddle in Bonn.

So young – and already a moustache!

(from "New Statesman", London)

It is important to note that the police action against "Spiegel" was not an isolated act. For years the West German police, run by old Gestapo men, and the West German courts, staffed by Hitler's judges, have been harrying progressives, opponents of nuclear arms, Communists and anti-fascist resistance fighters; but many people, both in West Germany and abroad, had ignored these attacks on left-wing groups just as, in 1933, they had soothed themselves by saying that Hitler was, after all, only attacking Reds and Jews.

Now they see that Adenauer, Strauss, and the rest of the gang are moving on to throttle any opposition to their plans for nuclear arms, and their plans to revise the frontiers of Europe by force.

The action against "Spiegel" has led to a government crisis in Bonn; Strauss may lose his post, and even Chancellor Adenauer, who seemed eternal, may be on the way out.

This does not yet mean a basic change in West Germany; but for the first time since the foundation of the Bonn state, the Establishment has been shaken.

Thank you, Herr Strauss, for your unintentional contribution to the peace of Europe.

QUICK GUIDE TO THE SPIEGEL SCANDAL

Late on the night of October 26th, West German police raided the offices of the newsmagazine "Spiegel", arresting journalists, seizing files, censoring proofs.

Since that date the "Spiegel" case has grown into a scandal which has rocked the West German Government. On this page GERMAN REPORT presents concise details of the men and the organisations involved in the case.

1. The Magazine

The weekly "Spiegel", with a circulation of over 500,000, is Europe's most prosperous and most influential news magazine. It has specialised in exposing political and economic scandals, and in a strictly conformist society like West Germany has often played the role of a one-man opposition. Its politics could be summed up as anti-Adenauer, anti-Communist, anti-phoney, and pro-Spiegel.

2. The Charges

Members of the staff of "Spiegel" and alleged informants have been arrested on suspicion of the following offences, though no detailed charges have been laid:

a. Treason. Anyone "betraying a state secret" shall be punished with up to 15 years hard labour. The definition of what is a state secret appears to lie in the hands of the relevant ministry.

b. Treasonable Falsification. Anyone "falsifying something which would be a state secret if it were genuine" shall be punished with up to 15 years hard labour. (For further details of this paragraph, see back page of this issue).

c. Active Subornation. This means bribery and corruption. Legal experts pointed to the odd fact that bribery always involves two parties, but that in this case only the alleged bribe-givers had been arrested, not the alleged bribe-takers.

3. The Accused

a. Rudolf Augstein, 39, bright self-effacing founder, owner and publisher of "Spiegel". Surrendered to police on October 27th, still in jail.

b. Claus Jacobi, firmly professional editor of "Spiegel", arrested at midnight, October 26th, released pending trial on November 13th.

c. Hans-Detlev Becker, director of the "Spiegel" publishing house, arrested on November 2nd, still in jail.

d. Conrad Ahlers, deputy editor of "Spiegel", arrested by Franco police in the small hours of October 27th, railroaded back to West Germany, still in jail. (For further details of the Ahlers case, see sub-heading "The Scandals" below).

e. Hans Schmelz, journalist in the Bonn office of "Spiegel". Arrested on November 1st on return from a trip abroad, still in jail. Schmelz is not only a journalist but also a member of the "Defence Affairs Commission" of the Social Democratic Party.

f. Colonel Adolf Wicht, high-ranking West German intelligence officer, reportedly a plant of spy-service BND in rival spy service MAD. (For further details on spy jungle, see sub-heading "Cloak and Dagger" below). Arrested at the end of October on suspicion of giving information to "Spiegel", still in jail.

4. The Accusers

a. Franz-Josef Strauss, West German Minister of Defence. There is every indication that Strauss personally master-minded the plans to hamstring "Spiegel" and kill the magazine if possible. Strauss has personal as well as political reasons for his hostility to the magazine, since for many years "Spiegel" has exposed Strauss' villainies, ranging from attempts to victimise a traffic cop who caught him in a traffic violation, through large-scale bribery and corruption, to his plans to make West Germany an independent atomic power.

b. Konrad Adenauer, antique West German Chancellor, who gladly fell in with Strauss' plans, firstly because he abhors any sort of opposition, and secondly because "Spiegel" has successfully fingered Adenauer for two delicts — a corruption scandal in the 1930s, and his role as a paid agent of a French intelligence service after World War Two.

c. Hans Globke, Adenauer's State Secretary, author of the nazi anti-Semitic legislation, who played a typically back-stairs role in planning the "Spiegel" raid without the knowledge of various cabinet ministers who might for reasons of their own not have agreed to the police swoop.

5. The Scandals

a. Press Gag. Main criticism of the West German Government's actions in regard to the "Spiegel" case was that the whole affair was an obvious attempt to gag the press. Three weeks after the first raid, police still occupied large parts of the magazine's office, including the reference library. Police and legal officials seized documents which could have no relationship with the charges made, such as biographical notes on leading West German politicians.

b. Slander. Speaking in the West German Parliament on November 9th, Chancellor Adenauer described publisher Augstein as "a man who makes money by committing treason" although no court has found Augstein guilty of treason charges, and definite charges have not even been lodged. In his speech Adenauer also censured big firms for advertising in "Spiegel".

c. Illegal Arrest. "Spiegel" journalist Conrad Ahlers was arrested by Franco police in Spain in the early hours of October 27th. After denying for two weeks that he had anything at all to do with the arrest, Defence Minister Strauss was finally forced to admit on November 9th that he had personally phoned the West German military attaché in Madrid at two o'clock in the morning, and ordered him to arrange for Spanish police to arrest Ahlers. The whole process was completely illegal; West German Minister of the Interior Hermann Hoecherl admitted in parliament on November 7th that the arrest had been "a little outside the bounds of legality".

Opposition Bundestag members heckled: "If it is so easy to get a political suspect sent back to Germany, why couldn't Bonn ever get Eichmann from Argentina, or hundreds of war criminals from Spain?"

d. Lies. Most astonishing feature of the whole case was the casual lying indulged in by most of the ministers and other officials involved in the case. Nearly every official statement made was promptly denied, either by another ministry, or by the man who first made it (see Strauss, under subheading "Illegal Arrest" above.)

6. The Parties

a. Christian Democrats. Adenauer's Party, with 192 seats in parliament. At present ruling in coalition with Christian Social Union and Free Democrats.

b. Christian Social Union. Bavarian variant of Christian Democrats, with 50 seats in parliament. Headed by Franz-Josef Strauss. Threatened to leave coalition if Strauss were sacked.

c. Free Democrats. Rag-bag party of right-wingers and liberals with 67 seats in parliament. Threatened to leave coalition if Strauss were not sacked.

d. Social Democrats. Stands well to the right of the British Labour Party. 190 seats in parliament. Showed pleasure that "Spiegel" case was embarrassing Adenauer, but did little to exploit public alarm about the case.

e. Communists. Banned since 1956.

7. Cloaks and Daggers

By the very nature of things, accurate information on the exact role of various cloak and dagger organisations concerned is hard to come by. The following notes are based upon the most reliable semi-official information available to Bonn.

a. BND. (Bundesnachrichtendienst — Federal Intelligence Service). This body, generally known as the "Gehlen Organisation" after its boss Reinhard Gehlen, former nazi intelligence chief, is generally regarded as the most efficient spy outfit in western Europe, despite the fact that the American CIA helped to build it. BND is directly responsible to Adenauer, through his State Secretary Globke.

b. MAD. (Militärische Abschirmdienst — Military Counter-Intelligence). This body, which often operates as if it had been organised by the off-beat American magazine of the same name, is Defence Minister Strauss' private preserve. It spends a large part of its time in internecine warfare with BND which is rather unsuccessful because Gehlen got the pick of Himmler's star spies, leaving only the second-rate men available to Strauss. MAD agents set up the "Spiegel" case.

c. Office for the Protection of the Constitution. This body, best described as West Germany's FBI, which has played a large part in earlier cases of press gagging and suppression of civil liberties, has to date not been linked with the "Spiegel" case.

d. Sicherungsgruppe Bonn (Bonn Security Group). This group of Federal detectives, vaguely similar to Scotland Yard's Special Branch, carried out the first arrests and searches in the case. The Sicherungsgruppe generally confines itself to bodyguarding Adenauer and visiting big-wigs, and similar tasks. The group contains an unusually high proportion of former SS officers, most notorious of whom is Inspector Konrad Zimmer, formerly member of SS Special Liquidation Squad 9.

NAZI VICTIMS THREATENED

A committee to defend the VVN (Association of Persecutees of the Nazi Regime) was formed in West Germany on November 13th, as the Bonn Government went ahead with plans to ban the organisation. Leaders of the committee included famed Hitler opponent Pastor Martin Niemoeller, Evangelical Church President in Hesse province and a member of VVN since its founding in 1947, and former mayor of Munich Robert Scholl, whose children Hans and Sophie Scholl led a famous student resistance movement against the nazis until they were executed in 1943.

The ban trial of the VVN was scheduled to open at the West German Federal Administrative Court in the British Sector of West Berlin on November 29th. The staging of the trial in West Berlin was a calculated insult to the western allies who have always maintained the position that West Berlin is not a part of the West German Federal Republic, and that therefore Federal Courts and other Federal authorities have no right to officiate there.

The Bonn Government has been preparing its case against the VVN ever since 1959, charging that it is unconstitutional and communist-infiltrated. It is trying to make punishable any organisation which is connected with the International Resistance Federation; if it succeeds, it will be the only country in Western Europe (except for Spain) which has outlawed a group which fought in the underground against Hitler. VVN spokesmen pointed out that the organisation naturally includes a large number of Communists, since Communists were numerically far the largest group of resistance fighters.

While plans to ban the VVN were pushed ahead, over 40 organisations of former SS men function perfectly legally in West Germany, as well as over 1000 quasi-nazi and militarist organisations, which exist in violation of the West German Constitution and the Potsdam Agreement. SS concentration camp guards are entitled to pensions and nazi civil servants are legally entitled to preference in getting civil service jobs.

Persecution

Since the beginning of 1961, West German police have arrested a total of 649 persons on political charges connected with left-wing politics and opposition to the nuclear war policy of the Adenauer Government. This figure does not include many hundreds detained for short periods because of their participation in sit-downs and similar activities.

520 of those arrested were sentenced to a total of 3650 months imprisonment for "crimes" such as organising study visits to the German Democratic Republic; publishing peace proposals made by GDR and Soviet statesmen; and "continuing the activities" of the banned Communist Party.

Most of the others arrested and not yet sentenced are in prison awaiting trial.

"Friendship" War Criminal on Trial

A West German war criminal who was arrested two years ago when he returned from a "Friendship Visit" to Hayes, Middlesex, went on trial on November 14th charged with murdering 40,000 Jews in Poland in 1942.

The accused, former SS Major Martin Fellenz, was a Free Democratic town councillor in Schleswig until his arrest. In this capacity he had been an official guest at Hayes, and had there conducted a West German choir in singing a "Hymn of Friendship" which he had composed himself.

West German newspapers reported Mr William Turner, Chairman of the Hayes Chamber of Commerce, as saying: "Fellenz told me that he had been in a concentration camp, and I was very sorry for him. I never guessed that he had been one of the guards."

You Ask – We Answer

"GERMANS AGAINST HITLER"

"I have just been reading a book called 'Germans Against Hitler' which is being freely distributed here in Britain by the West German Embassy. I don't know much about the subject, but it seems to give a very one-sided picture of the resistance movement. What do you think of the book?"

D. M., Croydon, Surrey

The book you refer to purports to give a picture of the resistance movement against Hitler inside Germany. In fact, it gives only a distorted picture of one very untypical aspect of the resistance movement, the "generals' plot" of July 20th 1944.

It is an extraordinarily misleading book because it gives unsuspecting readers the impression that the only resistance to Hitler was that put up, a few months before the end of the war, by a group of mainly conservative and often reactionary generals and politicians. In fact, of course, the only serious resistance to Hitler, from the very first day of his reign until the end of the war, was offered by the Communists together with some Social Democrats and trade unionists. The Communist Party had about 300,000 members when Hitler came to power. Tens of thousands of them were executed, and more than half – 150,000 – were imprisoned in concentration camps for longer or shorter periods because of their work in the resistance. No other party or organisation in Germany has an anti-fascist record even approaching this.

But the West German propaganda book "Germans Against Hitler" does not even mention the Communist resistance record; at one point it simply notes in passing "resistance was alive ... among workmen, intellectuals, churchmen, officials, officers."

The whole attitude of this book towards the resistance movement is perhaps best summed up in one sentence from the preface: "The word resistance in some cases applies, too, to certain forms of standing aside in silence".

But this ridiculous book has a certain value if it is read carefully, and with full appreciation of its glaring omissions, for it quotes at length, and with evident approval, from the lengthy memoranda drawn up by the plotters of July 20th; from these memoranda one can get a fairly clear view of what they stood for.

Karl Goerdeler, leader of the plotters, wrote in September 1944, in a nazi prison: "It seems to me that a hereditary monarchy is the form of state for our people. Our fickle, unpolitical people needs ballast in the ship of state. The House of Hohenzollern and the House of Wittelsbach could provide worthy monarchs."

Earlier, in 1941, Goerdeler had recorded the terms on which his proposed "anti-Hitler" government would be ready to end the war:

"Confirmation of the pre-war annexations of Austria, the Sudetenland, and Memel to Germany.

"Re-establishment of Germany's 1914 boundaries with Belgium, France and Poland.

"Restoration to Germany of her colonies, or of equivalent colonial areas."

This fine "resistance fighter" therefore proposed that Germany should retain large parts of nazi-occupied Europe, and in addition be granted colonies.

The key to his policy, set out in a memorandum dated March 26th 1943, is contained in the following sentences:

"The two Anglo-Saxon powers have, like Germany, a vital interest in preventing the further advance of Bolshevism towards the West. Only Germany can stop Bolshevism. If Germany becomes weakened by loss of the war and an unfavourable peace, then Bolshevism will find an easier – perhaps too easy – way to the West."

So the main aim of the "resistance fighters" of July 20th 1944 was not to overthrow the inhuman system of nazism, but to find a way to break the war-time anti-nazi alliance and align a militarist, traditionalist Germany with the Western Powers in a war against the Soviet Union.

But the most revealing thing about the West German book is not what is in it, but what has been dropped from the English-language edition. The book originally appeared in German under the title "20. Juli 1944". The contents of the German and English editions are nearly identical, but one important contribution has been dropped from the edition intended for English readers. This is an essay entitled "Why the 'Western Solution' Was Not Implemented" by the historian Dr Wilhelm Ritter von Schlamm. Here are some passages from this essay:

"Rommel was not really one of the 'plotters' ... He was a political person, who could think constructively ... In May (1944) he prepared the 'Western Solution', that is to say the plan to cancel obedience to Hitler, to seek independently contact with the western allies, and to make them offers.

"The price to be offered was withdrawal from the occupied areas, particularly in France ... This plan looks even more attractive in the light of present-day knowledge when we realise what France would have been spared, and what new opportunities it would have offered to defend Europe against the Bolsheviks. German-French relations would then not have been burdened by the mortgage of the Communist resistance movement ...

"To start negotiations, it was necessary to have the most favourable political conditions. Rommel and his staff therefore worked hard to strengthen the defence forces in the west, and to make his troops as powerful as possible. The German leadership in the west could hope, if not to throw the invaders into the sea, at least to hold them near to the coast ...

"For the western powers too the 'western solution' would have provided a great opportunity. The Bolsheviks would then probably have been held far back in the east ... There would scarcely have been a Yalta or a Potsdam. But they did not wish to recognise the frightful danger in the east ... The western politicians were obviously dazzled by the approach of military victory. The Germans were not given the chance to throw the troops, which would have been released by a withdrawal in the west, against the enemies of the Christian world and the civilised peoples."

It would be difficult to put it more plainly. The aim of the main plotters of July 20th 1944 was to overthrow Hitler; but not because he and his followers were criminals and mass murderers, but because Hitler had failed to fulfil the great dream of the German militarists – the conquest of the Soviet Union.

The Professor on the Farm

by Madeleine Karrer

Motoring down to the back of beyond in the streaming rain one September afternoon, my husband and I passed through the North German flat country to visit a mutual acquaintance who had taken on a new job under very interesting and extremely difficult circumstances. When we finally arrived in the village of Bismarck, in the midst of many low hills, with poor soil and a multitude of stones and rocks, we stopped outside the offices of the "Concord" LPG (agricultural production co-operative) where we were welcomed by our friend Professor Karl Glemnitz, the new chairman of the co-operative farm. This was the man we had come to see, whose story is part of an important development in current GDR agricultural life.

Going from one form of economic ownership to another always incurs difficulties, and this applies to farming too, of course. The co-operative farm movement has been in existence for 10 years now in the GDR and country-wide co-operative farming for somewhat over two years' time. In this period both advanced and backward LPGs have come into being and special attention still has to be devoted to the latter category. So a movement was initiated in the spring of 1962 in the course of which good scientists joined backward LPGs voluntarily to help them progress more rapidly, for science is the backbone of swift advance in every economic sphere.

Professor Glemnitz joined his co-operative farm in May 1962. His life story till then could stand for many in the GDR. He is the son of a small farmer who came from Silesia, now part of Poland. He had to start working on his father's farm when he was 10 years old. Schooling suffered as a result and he also became acquainted with the hardness of agricultural life at an early age. After 1945 and resettlement in what is now the GDR he took a job as agricultural worker on a state-owned farm and attended agrarian courses and colleges from 1947–1950. From 1950 onward he held the posts of assistant lecturer, lecturer and professor at various agricultural colleges. His professorship was bestowed by the Bernburg College of Agriculture. "During this period I always urged the farmers to join and form LPGs," Karl told us. "I lectured on transitional problems and wrote 24 works on this subject as well. I always kept in close touch with the farmers and even took several backward co-operative farms under my wing. I really knew all about the difficulties they were dealing with and I finally realized that we scientists must join the LPGs too, help them and gather new scientific knowledge at the same time for our own work. You see, our work is doomed to barrenness if we don't."

After the Socialist Unity Party had especially stressed the necessity of helping the backward LPGs in the north of the GDR (the most backward part of Germany as a whole), Professor Glemnitz said that he was willing to join a co-operative farm and to help run it for a number of years, thus helping to carry out this vitally important task. He was joined by 10 other scientists from the Bernburg College.

This, of course, meant a great deal of adjustment for the college, but others on the staff undertook to do part of their work for them and they themselves promised to hold occasional lectures on some subjects and to continue research on their respective farms. Thus, theory and practice entered into an even closer relationship.

And so Karl arrived in Bismarck in the middle of May and became one of its 800 inhabitants. The village lies close to the Polish border. Up to 1945 all the land now farmed by the LPG (1,900 acres) belonged to two Junkers, three big farmers and five middle farmers. Farming itself was extensive then — mainly sheep raising — and the few crops grown were chiefly cultivated by seasonal workers from Poland, Yugoslavia and Italy or, after the war began, by POWs. During the Land Reform in 1945 this land was distributed amongst 60 new, resettled peasants and agricultural workers who all joined to form a co-operative farm in 1953. "More than 60 per cent of all the villagers here are resettlers from the Polish western territories and they all received land and homes in Bismark after 1945," Karl explained. "We now have 171 members, 50 per cent of whom are women co-operative farmers."

"Well," I replied, "that's not so many, really. What do the others do?" Karl told us that 10 years ago there had been no large-scale industrial enterprises in the Pasewalk District, to which Bismark belongs, but that since 1950 the following works had been constructed and put into operation: a huge bakery, a meat processing plant, a fodder-mixing works with an annual capacity of 100,000 tons, a concrete factory and, last but not least, the nearby large-scale petroleum processing plant in Schwedt. "There was a strong drift away from the land and the labour force just went and worked in the factories mushrooming here. But this situation has been remedied now and even the children are interested in

Farms in the GDR

State Farms (VEG = Volks-eigene Gut): These nationally-owned farms are usually large and well-equipped. They are mainly devoted to seed-raising, livestock breeding, experimentation with new farm methods and training specialists. As in nationally-owned factories, the workers are employed on a wage basis.

Cooperative Farms (LPG = Landwirtschaftliche Produktions-genossenschaften): Cooperative farm members kept legal possession of their private lands when they pooled them to form cooperatives in the years 1952–1960. Their annual income in the farms is based partly on the amount of land they pooled together. Most of their income, in money and kind, is based on the amount of work they did in the year past. Of course, members' income always depends on the income of each farm. Members vote for their chairman and executive and approve or disapprove decisions made at regular meetings. There are three kinds of cooperative farms:

LPG Type I: In this form, which is still most prevalent, the members pool only their arable fields for collective planting and harvesting.

LPG Type II: This is an intermediary form, not very common in the past, but growing in importance. Members pool not only arable fields but also horses and other draught animals, tractors and all other machinery and large equipment.

LPG Type III: In this, the highest form of cooperative farm, members pool not only arable land, but also pastures, meadows, woods and other acreage, all agricultural equipment and most of their farm animals. Each family may keep for private use a little over an acre (1/2 hectare) of land for gardening and fodder needs, as well as 2 cows, 2 pigs, 5 sheep and an unlimited number of goats, rabbits and poultry.

Arable Land Ownership (1961)

State Farms	6.3%
Cooperative Farms	84.5%
Privately-owned	7.3%
Miscellaneous	1.9%

farming again. That has much to do with the fact that technology is coming into its own in farm work now. We alone own 17 tractors, four combines, three pick-up balers, two potato harvesters, two automatic straw cutters and we've also built a big "herring-bone" milking station now. These facilities interest the youngsters and give then an incentive to stay on the farm. They also make life and work easier for us." Karl went on to tell us that 55% of the land in cultivation was seeded with grain, 18% with potatoes and 25% was grass-land. That is very important, because the farm has 1,500 pigs, as many hens and a fine herd of cattle.

"Listen, Karl," I interrupted, "you really seem to have something here, but I still can't understand why your LPG was backward. After all, it was founded nine years ago and you do have all the necessary technical equipment at your disposal." "Well," he replied, "there are three reasons. First of all natural conditions are poor here and that means that transition to co-operative labour is more difficult. In other words, you can't mechanize as much as is really necessary. Secondly, we didn't have enough leadership here which was able to organize production in such a way under these conditions that, with co-operative farmers, production itself became profitable. The result was that, thirdly, the farmers lost heart and gave priority treatment to their own individual plots of land instead of the co-operative. When I first arrived I analysed the mistakes which had been made here. I discovered that they had neglected to keep up soil fertility and hadn't paid enough attention to combatting weeds and vermin pests. For example, I was the first to use herbicides on this farm. The men were really shocked when I sprayed the summer wheat, but two weeks later they saw that the wheat was doing fine and that the weeds were just growing themselves to death. Since I had explained that that was exactly what would happen, they started to trust me. Or take this example. They didn't even make use of the facilities they had here. We had an electric fence — in the store room! I asked the farmers why it wasn't in use. They replied that their cows were so wild that no electric fence in the world would hold them back. That was in May. I raised this subject time and again, but they didn't want to try out the fence. I didn't want to force the issue and so the cows stayed in the stalls. But summer came along and fodder had to be harvested and the cows still had to be fed too. In the end the fodder master got so fed up he came to me and asked for extra help. I showed him the fence and said, 'There you are. Use that and you won't have half as much to do.' That was in August. He finally agreed and we took our 220 cows, fenced them in and after three days they had become so docile that we were able to go on to portioning off the pasture. No one hauls fodder for the cows any more now and the farmers are satisfied. You see, I have made a point of introducing every new step or measure personally and of explaining it as we go along. Simple things like portioning off rations for the hens and being scrupulously honest towards the cooperative had to be elucidated too. When I arrived here we had 1,500 hens who only laid 90 eggs a day! It was absolutely fantastic. The hens really were one of my first jobs here, I started them off on rations at once and demanded daily laying reports. Inside two weeks time the same number of hens were laying 800 eggs a day and in July we had 1,200 hens laying 800 eggs. That's quite a change, don't you think? One of the facets I attached most importance to was improving operative farm management. I instruct the team leaders personally. They must realize that they are actual leaders and that they bear the responsibility for their own and their team's work. That is one of the cardinal problems of co-operative farm management, for they are the conveyor belts leading from the members to the executive committee — the motor driving the whole plant, figuratively speaking. The executive committee has to guide the team leaders, but they themselves have to organise the work to be done. I also put in a great deal of work with the executive committee. They have learned to tackle long-term farm problems in the right way. We have set up various commissions for the different problems here. The commissions are comprised of an executive member, tractor drivers, team leaders and co-operative farmers. They deal with both immediate and long-term issues. That is the general trend of the work I have done here up to now and I honestly think we're going to be successful."

It had grown dark in the meantime, but no one seemed to have noticed. Two team leaders dropped in and sat back and listened to Karl's story. Up to then we had talked about work and plans. But I now started to delve into the more personal side of the matter and asked Karl to assess his gains and losses in this venture.

"Let's deal with the losses first of all." he said. "I suppose some might think that they outweigh my gains, because, after all, it is only too easy to judge a book by its cover. You see, I've moved from a town to a village where cultural life is not nearly as developed as in my former surroundings. I miss a large number of amenities here — no gas, (but we do have electricity), no central heating, and poor roads. I have to wear boots now instead of shoes. I haven't got regular working hours, because I have to be on my toes for the LPG day and night. I can't take my holidays in the summer any more — and I'll really miss the seaside. I don't have a guaranteed four weeks' vacation any more, but two weeks at the most. I don't draw a fixed salary now, but a basic wage and bonuses depending on whether we fulfil the plan or not. The children have to travel quite a distance to get to the nearest school and they had to give up their accustomed environment and friends too. Incidentally, they weren't at all pleased about coming here and I really made a mistake in this case. Why? Because I just said,

Giant Xmas Toy

Besides the annual devotion to the Christmas spirit, the December issue of "GDR Review" also contains articles on social insurance, a railway junction, Walter Felsenstein, head of Berlin's famous Comic Opera House, and other aspects of life in the GDR. As always, the handsome monthly magazine is plentifully and colourfully illustrated.

For details on subscription rates and for a sample copy, write:

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'You'll go where your father goes and that's that' instead of discussing the question with them. Then one evening after supper my eldest girl tackled me and I explained the necessity of our taking this step. She and the others soon understood then. They agree with me now. I learned an important lesson that evening — that one must treat children as individual equals, that one can't dictate to them, but has to listen to their point of view too. After all, if they're going to build up socialism and communism, they have to be trained to assume responsibility and not await comfortable and tame lives at an early age. They must become adventurous, because life is an adventure here, after all. Well, those were my losses. And my gains? My coming here practically gives me a second university education at the village level. I gain new knowledge and experiences every day. I recognize natural scientific and technological connections, the links existing between society and production much more clearly now. I have to improve the management here, but that means that I have to better myself too, because every farmer looks up to me as the chairman and I can't let myself become lax in any respect whatsoever. That means exercising constant self-discipline, but I can feel myself growing with this task and towards this goal. The most important gain is, I think, seeing the changes resulting from my own work here on the farm and knowing that the co-operative members really trust me and believe that I do my best for them and the farm. You can't imagine what an incentive and uplift those hens gave me."

The tale about the children intrigued me and, being a housewife myself, I was curious to learn what Mrs Glemnitz thought about this venture. It seems she wasn't so enthusiastic at first — because her husband's new job meant another move for the household, the fifth in fifteen years. But coming from a village herself she soon realized that the step was necessary and that the farm would gain a great deal from her husband's assistance.

This statement was underlined by Kurt Schmidt, one of the team leaders, who turned to Karl and said thoughtfully, "You know, I think you've forgotten to mention some of the results we've already achieved during the time you've been here. Even though this year's weather was so bad, we've never had as good a harvest as this year. We've become optimistic in our work again. We know we've got to win through and we are convinced that we will. If the executive works all right, the farm will really go ahead, for we'll be able to work well too."

"That's right," seconded Kurt Springbock, the other team leader, and leant towards me. "You can write this down word for word, Mrs Karrer. We've wanted to have a chairman like Karl for a very long time now. You see, he's really human and adheres to a straight line at the same time too."

And that, I thought as I packed away paper, pencils and cigarettes, seems to me a fitting tribute to a socialist pioneer who is one of the many lesser heroes of our modern times.

Arnold Zweig is Seventy-Five

Arnold Zweig, grand old man of German letters, celebrated his 75th birthday in his home in East Berlin on November 10th.

Zweig is best known for his anti-militarist novel "The Case of Sergeant Grischa" which has been translated into dozens of languages.

Born in Glogau (Silesia) in 1887, Zweig won literary laurels in Germany before World War One with a play about anti-Semitism. He served most of the war as a private, and used his experiences to write a cycle of novels which condemned war and analysed its causes. Because of this stand, as well as his Jewish descent, Arnold Zweig was forced to leave Germany in 1933, when the nazis took over.

His books were amongst those burned by the nazis on their notorious bonfire.

He spent the war years in Palestine where he published an antifascist magazine. In 1948 he returned to Berlin where he played a leading part in the revival of intellectual life in the German Democratic Republic.

Despite his severely impaired eyesight, he has continued writing and has always taken an active part in public life. He is Honorary President of the German Academy of Arts and a member of the People's Chamber, as well as President of the German Pen Centre (East and West).

On his 75th birthday, the GDR awarded him the Patriotic Order of Merit in Gold and the honorary title of Professor. He had already been awarded the National Prize (First Class) and other top decorations.

Answering a western newspaper's attacks against GDR writers several years ago, he stated: "I believe that we receive orders — but from within ourselves. We receive our orders from our conscience in the interests of the progressive part of humanity, we receive these orders from our convictions, our independent thought.

"We are ready to plunge into the fray with our entire strength for those things dedicated to the growth of the proletariat, the growth of a new humanity."

(cartoon by Elisabeth Shaw)

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

Let me tell you about the dinner I have just eaten. It started with butter soup, continued with a very tasty butter steak au beurre, and was rounded off with some nice stewed butter.

No, despite appearances, I have not gone off my head. I have only been trying to conform with the ruling laid down for me by the London "Observer" on November 4th. In the cooking column on page 32 of that issue there appeared an imaginary dialogue on butter prices and the Common Market. Part of it went like this:

"Do French housewives use more butter than we use? — Yes... They are fond of good cooking.

"And West German housewives? — West German housewives use rather less than we do. The Germans have never been frivolous over butter...

"And the East Germans? I suppose they have no butter at all? — On the contrary. The East Germans are some of the biggest butter-eaters in the world. Perhaps it is all they have to eat."

Eat More Cake

Shades of Marie Antoinette. But apart from the odd last sentence, the culinary correspondent of the "Observer" is quite correct. Despite poor hay and root crops last year, which in their turn led to low winter milk yields and a butter shortage, people in the GDR are still chumping their way through more butter per head than people in Britain, the United States, and West Germany. And I can assure you there is plenty of bread and jam to eat it with. In fact, quite a lot of doctors are very worried about the cholesterol intake involved in the eating of so much butter, but nobody quite knows what to do about it.

One for the Books

One of those classic quotes which deserves to be preserved for posterity marked a West German parliamentary debate on November 8th. Defence Minister Strauss was being harried by questions about the "Spiegel" affair, and in particular by a question as to whether a legal opinion on the case had been prepared by a former SS officer now serving in the Defence Ministry. After trying to avoid a straight answer to the questions, Strauss burst out: "I can assure you that there are far more SS officers in the police and in the other ministries than there are in the Defence Ministry."

The really odd thing about this pot-and-kettle answer is that Strauss for once was telling the truth. By Bonn standards the proportion of SS officers in the Defence Ministry is surprisingly low. The reason is that the traditional Prussian-style German militarists who served the nazis and who today run the ministry have always held that Hitler's SS officers were rather caddish, and have done their best to keep them out.

Nazi Paragraph

Some of the main-line events in the "Spiegel" affair are dealt with on other pages of this issue, but this seems to be a good place to remark on the fact that one of the legal paragraphs under which the West German Government is taking action against the news magazine "Spiegel" was specifically invented by the nazis after they took power in 1933. This is paragraph 100a of the West German Criminal Code, which runs as follows:

"Any person who falsifies writings, drawings or other objects, which would be state secrets if they were genuine... shall be punished by penal servitude up to ten years."

This Looking-Glass paragraph was, as I said, originally invented by the nazis in 1933, incorporated into the Criminal Code in 1934, and solemnly taken over in the West German Criminal Code in 1951.

And now the editors of "Spiegel" are being charged with treason, and with treasonable falsification, which is the name of the curious offence defined above. Incidentally, there is a joke going the rounds in Bonn about these two offences:

"If I said Strauss was a bad Defence Minister, what would they arrest me for?" — "Treason, of course."

"And if I said he was a good Defence Minister?" — "Treasonable falsification."

Change of Address

Our new address is:
GERMAN REPORT
9 Krausen Strasse
Berlin W 8
German Democratic Republic

Amongst our readers we have plenty of specialists in almost everything, so here is a question for the grammarians: How do you spell the plural of Germany?

The question never arose in the past, so it is no good looking up the reference books. But today there are undoubtedly two Deutschlands, and they sometimes have to be referred to as such. Hitherto we have said "the two Germanys", but now I notice that "The Times" of London, which is some sort of standard-setter, has plumped for "the two Germanies". The simplest way to settle this spelling problem would be, of course, to re-unite the country.

Just while we are talking about "The Times", I would like to draw the attention of the non-readers of "The Times" to the sly typographical trick by which that newspaper tries to prove something, I am not sure quite what, about the German situation. When it refers to the two German states it always calls them "east Germany" and "west Germany", with small letters for the geographical descriptions. Oddly enough, Germany seems to be the only divided country which ranks this special treatment: in the case of Vietnam and Korea, North and South get their capital letters.

Opinion

And perhaps we can ask for opinions from readers on another knotty point: the name "German Democratic Republic" is a bit of a mouthful, and naturally needs abbreviating, in headlines and elsewhere. Should it be shortened to "GDR" from the full English title, or to "DDR" from the German title?

Until now GERMAN REPORT has picked "GDR" as the best abbreviation, but we are open to persuasion.

Schoolgirl Complexion

Commentaries on cartoons are about as anti-social as explanations of jokes, but I think the amusing cartoon on the front page needs a brisk footnote. The sinister young gentlemen in the leather shorts is labelled "German Democracy": he should in all justice be labelled "West German Democracy". I have had his East German brother under close observation for over twelve years now, and can affirm that he shows no trace of moustache.

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